

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner, Mr. Van for graciously granting applicant's representative, Mr. Richard Klar a telephonic interview on July 26, 2005. During that interview it was agreed that propose claims B would be allowable over the cited prior art of record subject to an updated search. The claims amended herein reflect the claims submitted and discussed during the interview.

In the last office action , the examiner rejected the claims citing Anderson (US 6840773) against claims 1,3,7-8, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 102 (b).

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 USC 102 (b) by JP 11263629 (the Japanese reference):

Other claims were rejected based on the Japanese reference in combination with Glover, Lupoi and Bossell.

The claimed invention now recites structural distinctions over these references. Also, an English translation of the Japanese references is enclosed to show that the reference does not disclose or suggest a decorative ceramic element as is now recited in the proposed claim language.

Anderson discloses a magnetic decorative element for decorating a refrigerator. It does not disclose a decorative ceramic element for decorating a microwave oven as now

recited in amended claim 1 nor the features of a decorative ceramic element with a decorative design therein and being formed of one or more variably sized and shaped strips affixed at different locations on the microwave oven as now recited in amended claim 1.

The Japanese reference discloses an antimicrobial crystallized glass where ceramic powder is used (see par. 00006) of the MAT translation but not a decorative ceramic element formed as one or more strips as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these references alone or in combination with the other references cited in the last office action do not teach or disclose the invention as now recited in the proposed amended claim language. It is therefore respectfully requested that the 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 rejections be withdrawn.

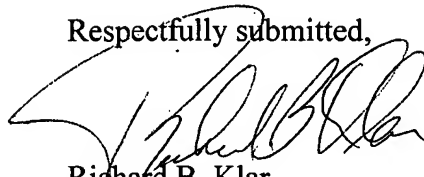
The claims have been amended to fully comply with 35 USC 112. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn as well.

The abstract has been amended herein.

The requisite fee for a one month extension of time to respond to the last office action is enclosed.

Allowance of the claims remaining in the present application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard B. Klar', is written over the typed name.

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